GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2414
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016
Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools targeted under the Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat programme, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether all the primary schools of Himachal Pradesh are covered under the programme, if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) the details of activities undertaken as part of the programme and the amount of funds released so far;

(d) whether the Government has conducted an outcome survey, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of challenges in implementing the scheme and the steps taken by the Government to adhere to them?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' (PBBB) is a sub-programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented to support the States/UTs for universalization of elementary education across the country. It was launched in August, 2014 to ensure quality at the foundational years of schooling. The objectives of the programme are to promote early reading and writing with comprehension skills in children, and also basic numeracy skills. All Government and Government aided primary schools across India, including Himachal Pradesh, are targeted under PBBB.

(c): The activities under PBBB include having dedicated teachers for classes I and II, setting up of reading corners in classrooms, having dedicated period for reading in the school time table and availability of a variety of reading material in the form of supplementary readers for children. States/UTs have been approved funds amounting to Rs. 456 crores in 2014-15 and Rs. 525 crores in 2015-16 for various activities under PBBB.
(d): No outcome survey has been conducted to assess the impact of PBBB separately. However, National Achievement Surveys are being carried out over the years by National Council for Educational Research and Training to assess learning achievement of children in classes − III, V, VIII, and X.

(e): The Central Government has taken various steps towards addressing the challenges faced in the implementation of the scheme of PBBB, which inter-alia, include preparation of special bridge materials for States having a high tribal population; release of funds approved for the activities including provisioning of free textbooks, development and procurement of supplementary reading material; in-service teacher training; having dedicated teachers for foundational classes and maintaining the required Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) as prescribed under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

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